

The Second Tuesday Race Forum

The Second Tuesday Race Forum is a community of individuals concerned with the issue of race/racism and its ongoing impact on our society. We provide a safe, non-judgmental, forum for inter-racial discussions and individual discernment.

Our Goals are:

- Put current events in an historical context
- See the way race permeates every aspect of our lives
- Develop a common vocabulary
- Support individual growth
- Provide tools for participants to talk with others about racial issues
- Seek to overcome institutional racism and its systems of dominance and oppression

Our history:

In 1997, Joyce Meskis of the Tattered Cover Book Store and Clara Villarosa of the Huelman Book Store sponsored the first interracial conversation meeting as a book promotion event for the Report of President Clinton's Commission on Race Relations. The group has been meeting monthly since then (for 17 years) from September to May, with Harold Fields facilitating, with a pot luck celebration for Juneteenth, and summers off.

How you can find us:

We meet from 7 - 9 PM on the second Tuesday on *most* months in the basement of the Park Hill United Methodist Church on the corner of Montview Blvd and Glencoe St in Denver (entrance in the back off the parking lot on Glencoe St). You can drop in without an invitation or reservation. If you want to be sure we are meeting before you come, and to know what our topic for an evening is, you can contact us by email at:

secondtuesdayraceforum@gmail.com

We will gladly put you on our mailing list to get a monthly notice of our meeting with the topic of the month.

See the other side for some recent topics of meetings.

Recent Topics of Conversation

January 2014

Neutralized or Obsolete? It is timely to observe how this has been done to Dr. Martin Luther King and see the similarities with President Nelson Mandela. We looked at how the privileged elites use this hero worship and how it fits in the stages of a social movement.

December 2013

12 Years a Slave Debriefing British director Steven R. McQueen has recently released “12 Years a Slave,” an exceptional and riveting film about one of the key defining periods of America’s past. It is based on the true story of Solomon Northrup, a free black man from Saratoga, New York, a talented musician and crafts person, who was kidnapped in 1841 and enslaved for 12 years. Dr. Robert Atwell was the discussion leader.

November 2014

The Stress of Being Invisible One consequence of racism is that we are conditioned to not really see each other. It is as if the genes that naturally control empathy got switched off. In the November discussion we explored this through the poetry of our friend Norma Johnson, a healer, inspirationalist and visionary consultant. Norma shared with us her A Poem for My White Friends: “I Didn’t Tell You.” Then we discussed and unpacked its many dimensions.

October 2013

Educating Young Men of Color With school to prison pipelines, over policing, gang violence, broken homes, and limited economic opportunities, these young men are like an endangered species. But that’s not the only story to be told. There are so many places where young men of color are being nurtured. We were pleased to have as our guest that month Dedrick Sims, Executive Director and founder of the Sims-Fayola International Academy.

September 2013

Justice in the Age of Trayvon Martin During the summer, while we were off, so many significant events had happened that directly connect to the Second Tuesday Race Forum topics we explore. The Supreme Court issued a ruling that deeply affects the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The country celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington. And a jury acquitted George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. Our September discussion was about the state of justice at that point in America.